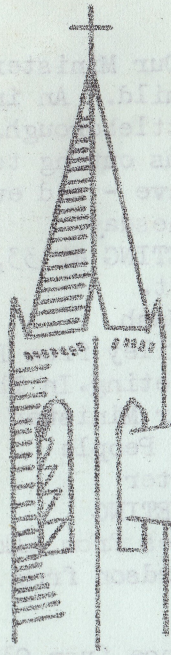
Aug 1976



The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S & Milnrow Littleborough

Price: 4p

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY.

AUGUST

1st. Sun. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Our Minister
3rd. Tues. 7.30 p.m. - Ladies Guild. An invitation evening with Littleborough.
4th. Weds. 1.15 p.m. - Young Mums outing to Burnley
7.30 p.m. - Whist Drive - and every Wednesday.
5th. Thurs. 7.30 p.m. - HOUSE MEETING at 33, Sherriff Street.
8th. Sun. 11 a.m. - Mrs. M. Nash
6 p.m. - Mrs. E. Riley from Denton
11th. Weds. 7.30 p.m. - Elders Meeting. In The Manse.
15th. Sun. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Our Minister (-Family Communion
22nd. Sun. 11 a.m. - The Young People
6 p.m. - Our Minister
25th. Weds. 7.30 p.m. - CHURCH MEETING
29th. Sun. 11 a.m. - Mr. D. Jones from Alkrington
6 p.m. - Mrs. Richardson from Middleton

SEPTEMBER.

5th. Sun. 11 a.m. - Mr. E. Prince from Oldham
No Evening Service.

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE.

Aug. 1st. Mrs.N. Settle; Mrs.J. Harrison; Mrs. A. Whitworth
" 8th. Mrs. E. Dermott; Mrs.C.Wilkinson
" 15th. Mrs.R. Wolfenden; Mrs.P. Staff
" 22nd. Mrs. A. Collins: Mrs.P. Sandham
" 29th. Mrs. F. Butterworth

These flowers bring great joy to many. Should you wish to give flowers on a Sunday would you please contact either Mrs. F. Butterworth or Mrs. E.Prince at No.184 or 182 Harbour Lane. Many thanks.

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Calm soul of all things! make it mine
To feel, amid the city's jar,
That there abides a peace of thine
Man did not make, and cannot mar.

Matthew Arnold.

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY.

August.

Sun.	1st.	10.30 am. Mr.J. Lord.
Tues.	3rd.	7.30 pm. We join ladies at St. Stephen's Ladies Guild.
Sat.	7th.	ANNUAL PICNIC - Todmorden Park.
Sun.	8th.	10.30 am. Rev. A. Nash
		6 pm. Rev.A. Nash. (Holy Communion followed by Fellowship Hour).
Tues.	10th.	7.30 pm. - Junior Church Staff Meeting
Weds.	11th.	Ladies Guild trip to Southport
Sun.	15th.	10.30 am. - Mrs.M. Nash
Tues.	17th.	7.30 pm. - Ladies Guild RALLY. Speaker: Miss Paton-Rogerson.
Sun.	22nd.	10-30 am. - Rev.A. Nash. ... Family Communion.
Tues.	24th.	7.30 pm. - Coffee Evening and Bring & Buy - in aid of Drapery Stall.
Sun.	29th.	1o.30 a.m. - Mr. Roy Vincent.

September.

Sun.	5th.	Church closed.
Sun.	12th.	10-30 am. - Rev. A. Nash
		No Evening Service.

Please Note.
The Pilots will be closed until September.

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Organist/Pianist.

Aug.	1st.	a.m.	Mrs.M. Hill
"	8th.	a.m.	Miss L. Merrick
		p.m.	Mrs.M. Hill
"	15th.	a.m.	Mrs.E. Cockcroft
"	22nd.	a.m.	Miss L. Merrick
"	29th.	a.m.	Mrs.E. Cockcroft
Sept.	5th.	Church closed	
"	12th.	a.m.	Mrs. M. Hill

May we thank these ladies for their continued service in this special way.

From THE MANSE.

August, 1976.

My dear friends,

As you probably know the teaching material currently used in our Churches is called "Partners in Learning". It's a good title for it describes what we all are. We know of course that if learning is to be of value the will to learn must be present. God is always seeking to teach those willing to be taught and part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to teach us and lead us into all truth.

God has many ways of reaching out to us in order to teach us, and we have to do our part in making the effort to understand what He is saying. Supremely, God teaches us by the life of Christ who is called in the New Testament - the Word. Read the Gospels carefully. Consider why Christ came. Think about the things He said and the things that happened to Him and why they did so.

We learn from God in other ways and not least through the difficulties of life. These teach us, if our minds are directed towards God, to trust Him ever more deeply. Meeting with difficulties is not usually very pleasant. In spite of everything though many people have found a blessing through them and a strengthening of faith. Some there are who have learned to pray with meaning only because their situation has brought them to it.

Abraham of old was a man who wanted to learn from God. At His call he went out into the unknown and in the course of his wanderings learned that God was with him at all times and in every place. There are many aspects of this "going out into the unknown", It may have to do with moving to a different place, or to different surroundings like hospital, or college. It may have to do with all kinds of change and I am sure that you can think of many situations to which is applies. One thing however, remains constant, God will be there..

We are also "partners in learning" as we talk about the Christian faith. In this respect our house meetings have proved most valuable and the offer of more homes, both at Milnrow and Littleborough, for such meetings will be greatly appreciated. Don't hesitate to come along and join in. We are all learners and everyone has something to offer, even if it's only a question.

May God bless you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH.

Thought for the month:

"And Jesus began to teach by the sea side and a great crowd came to him and He taught them many things by parables".

Mark Chapter 4.

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IN MEMORIAM.

MRS. ANNIE CLAY, aged 63 years, 13, Ladyhouse Lane, at Rochdale Crematorium - June 1st.

MRS. OLIVE LILIAN LUCAS, aged 66 years (Mother of Mr.B. Lucas, Egremont Road), at Rochdale Crematorium - June 9th.

Both services were conducted by our Minister - Rev.A. Nash.

-- May we express our deepest sympathy to families and friends --

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MILNROW - COLLECTIONS.

Total for April	-	£112.18.
" " May	-	£116.87½
" " June	-	£124.28

LITTLEBOROUGH - Collections.

April 25th.	Total	-£80.10. (Anniversary)
May 2nd.	"	-£15.97
" 9th.	"	-£28.36
" 16th.	"	-£12.91
" 23rd.	"	-£13.32
" 30th.	"	-£14.45
June 13th.	"	-£26.57.

COMINGS AND GOINGS.

The 'Young Mums' are restricting their activities somewhat during the summer but don't forget two important events:

+ The trip to Towneley Hall on Wednesday, 4th August - and -

+ The ordinary meeting on September 15th to which you are asked to bring your holiday snaps.

We send our best wishes to Angela Turner as she moves "down south". We shall have news of her from time to time no doubt, and we look forward to hearing of the birth of the new baby. Thank you, Angela, for all you have done for us in 'Young Mums'. God bless!

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VITAL THOUGHTS.

The small purple pansy, head bowed in the rain
To a child without sight, how can you explain?

The soft lingering music of a Brahms lullaby,
To a child without hearing, it just passes by.

To run, and splash, and swim in the sea,
For a child in a wheelchair, that cannot be.

Yelling and laughing - causing noise galore
A child without speech would love to I'm sure.

To run, to laugh, to listen, to see..
Are your children fine.. Are you lucky like me?

Next time they start yelling and laughing in play,
Whatever the noise, don't send them away.
Just watch and listen and feel grateful inside,
For to so many children it's a thing that's denied.

GLENDA WRIGHT.

MORE HOLIDAY POSTCARDS??

..... Please don't throw them away. Let Mrs. Mildred Howarth have them. She can use them for fund raising. Thanks!

GIVE US, LORD.

Just after our last edition had gone to press two months ago, we received a nice letter from Mrs. Winifred Needham who had just had a fortnight in Birch Hill and wanted to say 'thank you' for the flowers she received from St. Stephen's.

Winnie also sent a charming old English prayer which had appeared on one of her 'Get Well' cards. It is an honest prayer with a simple message:-

"Give us in all the struggle and sputter,
Our daily bread and a bit o' butter.
Give us health our keep to make,
And a bit to spare for other's sake.

Give us too, a bit of a song,
And a tale and a book to help us along.
Give us, Lord, a chance to be
Our goodly best; brave, wise and free.
Our goodly best for ourselves and others
'Till all men learn to live as brothers".

Thank you, Mrs. Needham.

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FROM FAR AWAY SHORES.

If somebody told you that they had spent their holiday in a sun-soaked island where the prices were high and one kept meeting up with Yorkshire folk, you might suspect they had come to Britain in 1976. As it happens, however, the island visited by Mrs. Dorothy Law which answered this description, was Bermuda, and she told us all about it at the last meeting of the Ladies Guild. The sun, and the prices were more obviously in the sky than here, of course, and Yorkshiremen were more likely to be encountered with surprise than dismay. The life, judging by the snap shots seemed to suit Dorothy well, however, and we were fascinated to hear about the individual house water supply system and that charming house maid, Mabel.

On August 3rd we are to be graced by the presence of the ladies from Littleborough, so do come along and make them welcome.

HUNTING THE COBRAS BY BETTY NUPPY'S

If the title of this item sounds to you like a book title you are most likely --
a) not local; b) a youngster (i.e.under 50) or c) did not enter the CWM Treasure Hunt in June.

If you are a) b) and c) you should be ashamed of yourself for being a coward. Cynthia Hey covered the course with the pram, both the Minister and Church Secretary (who are nearly 50!) managed to get round, and some of the ladies who are more nimble in their minds than their feet managed to follow the course in their heads!

The three mile route had been carefully arranged so that the 33 competitors could find their way with the aid of 25 corny clues. There was supposed to be a staggered start but the Established Church brought us into Dissent by encouraging our competitors to watch their annual procession so most of our folk got into a bunch before long.

Mrs. Jean Calow's team were first out and last in and considering that they could have walked the course four times in the time they took, its not surprising they won. Still nobody complained. It was good fun.

OOOOOOOOOO

GARDEN PARTY A FANTASTIC SUCCESS.

The Church Garden Party held at the Baines' Residence was in several respects the best we have had. At the time of going to press the proceeds are approaching the £80. mark; the weather was glorious; the crowd unprecedented and joyfully, Mrs. Doris Bruckshaw was able to come and judge the cake competition.

The garden was full of people enjoying themselves. Youngsters working their way round the side shows, knocking over cans and skittles, grasping piles of pegs in one hand, estimating the length of a minute, testing the steadiness of their hands on the electric buzzer and rolling a reel into a bucket until that particular stall had to close due to bankruptcy. Incredibly while this was going on one lady managed to fall asleep and we are prepared to bet that quite a lot of other folk slept soundly that night too. .....8... (Continued ....

FINAL TEST?

"At this stage I am just praying that the situation does not get worse, but if it does I shall take the matter higher".

- England Captain Tony (6ft.7in.) Gregg commenting on the West Indians bowling beamers.

oooooooo

SILAS K. HOCKING.

This item is a straight enquiry by the Editor to older members of the congregation. What can you tell me about the victorian novelist Silas K. Hocking? Has anyone any of his books to sell?

When I was a little lad my grandmother had one of his books called "Alec Green", and it must have impressed me greatly for I read it two or three times over. Recently, I was telling a friend about this and he promised to glean the second-hand book stalls for me. Although he failed to turn up "Alec Green" he brought me another of Hocking's works entitled "The heart of man", and I have now read this with great enthusiasm.

They are fantastic stories of a type which novelists do not seem to write any more. They are full of wrongly accused men on the run, scoundrels caught up by the folly of their ways, people dying of consumption or going into what is referred to as "a decline". Throughout there is a steady theme of the Christian life which brings justice - if not mercy - in the end.

Who was Hocking? All I know so far is that his best seller, "Her Benny", was re-rprinted in 1968 but I haven't read that one. Can you help me?

ooOOOOOoo

Garden Party (Contd.)

..... like, for instance, the Ladies in the tea room and washing up room, and Mr. Busill who journied constantly from the Schoolroom with more and yet more chairs.

Our thanks for a lovely afternoon!

C.W.M. IN THE PACIFIC.

The Gilbert and Ellice Islands have now separated into two Governments. The fundamental characteristic of the "Missionary" for many years was to travel round the islands by ship giving guidance, support, and encouragement to the Churches. The itinerant responsibility has now been taken over by local ministers, and three have been appointed to fulfil a post not unlike that of a Moderator. Fortunately they can now get around the Islands more speedily due to the expansion of Internal Air Services.

Home is home particularly for the Ocean Islanders who traditionally belong to the Gilbert Islands Protestant Church. They were moved to an Island near Fiji because of the exploitation of Phosphate on their Island. This has never been totally acceptable to the ocean Islanders, and now that the phosphate deposits are virtually outworked, they want to return home and start life again.

Tuvalu is the new name for the Ellice Islands which only recently became self-governing, and now wishes to identify itself with national feelings and developments. One of these is to be self-supporting. The Churches secondary School at Motofoua has increased its number of students by 50%. The Church continues to make progress with its Biblical Translations into the Tuvaluan Language, for which it receives some assistance from the Bible Society.

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Did you know that:

An attic is the place where you keep the things you will never want until you've thrown them away.

It was Robinson Crusoe who started the five-day week plan - he had all his work done by Friday.

Horse sense is the ability to say "Neigh".

Seeing ourselves as others see us wouldn't achieve much - because most of us wouldn't believe what we saw.

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Our thanks are extended to all those who contributed towards rose trees for the Church Garden. (Not back yard, if you don't mind). Up to press we already have enough for 20 trees, but if you have not yet indicated that you would be prepared to buy one there is still time. All you have to do is speak to Mr. Simpson or Mr.R. Mullen about it.

Incidentally this is the Centenary Year of the Royal National Rose Society and it was felt that L.U.R.C. should follow the B.B.C. with our own "Rose Programme".

TODDLING OFF.

Annual Picnic ..... Saturday 7th August... ..... Be at Station at 1.30 p.m..... Bring a packed tea ..... Catch train from Littleborough ..... to Todmorden Park, of course..

Milnrovians are invited to join us.

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TO THE POINT.

We now have some ball point pens on sale stamped "Littleborough U.R.C". Price 10p. Buy one or sell some to help funds and advertise the Church.

COFFEE EVENING

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BRING AND BUY SALE

Display of Christmas Cards and Gifts

Proceeds in Aid of Drapery Stall.

Tuesday, 24th August.

7.30 pm. 5p.

COME FROM EMMANUEL.

Kathleen Hill has received the following from Mrs. Audrey Walls.... "I would like to thank the younger Guilders & Busy Bees for the nice evening out we had and the lovely present. We are settling down here very well, and attend Emmanuel URC. The folk from here send good wishes to all at Littleborough URC. Kind regards to all"..

GETTING TOGETHER.

At the last meeting of the Ladies Guild we enjoyed the company of the menfolk and particularly their presence in the singing. We are sorry to have to report however, that even in these days of "equality" male chauvinism triumphed when it came to the quiz. There were readings by Mrs. Leach and Rev. Nash and the evening closed with refreshments and the benediction.

Ladies are reminded of three forthcoming events in August....

+ Tuesday 3rd. -- see another bit of the world by joining us on our return visit to St. Stephen's at Milnrow-on-the-Motorway.

+ Wednesday 11th -- travel even further afield on our trip to Southport - (on Sea.. you must be joking).

+ Tuesday 17th -- half the world will come to Littleborough for at 7.30 pm we are holding our first Rally. Miss Paton Rogerson will be our Guest Speaker, and refreshments will be served in the schoolroom after the Service. We expect many friends from other Churches and look for a good turn out from Littleborough URC.

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FELLER'S SHIP SHAPE.

With their usual crisp efficiency the Men's Fellowship announce that they had an A.G.M. in May to re-appoint their officers and express gratitude to those who served in various capacities. Mention was also made of the excellent programmes and fellowship enjoyed during the year. For the benefit of those who do not wish to miss out on anything next year you are hereby informed that the dates of meeting are as follows:-

September 23rd; October 28th; November 25th; 1977 - January 6th; and 27th; February 24th; March 24th; April 29th; and May 26th which latter date will be the A.G.M. when all committee places will be keenly contested.

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We welcome into Church Membership Mr. Donald Harrison and Mrs. Rosalind Harrison of "Woodside", Centre Vale. God bless you & your daughters.

THANK YOU, KATHLEEN.

Mrs. Kathleen Hill jas now terminated her post as "Messenger" correspondent and also her Welfare work. May we thank Kathleen for her past services and assistance in what has so often been a thankless task. The Editor would particularly like to acknowledge the brave way in which she has absorbed criticism from offended contributors whose efforts have been altered beyond recognition by the Editor's pen.

Mrs. Joan Grindrod has accepted the post of Welfare worker and Mrs. Pat Mullen has accepted responsibility for the magazine articles. Glad to have you aboard, Pat.

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CHRISTIANS AID.

A cheque for the sum of £16.50 has been sent to "Christian Aid" by our Church. This amount was derived from the collections at Christmas Morning Service (£5.29) and the joint service held on Whit Sunday with Victoria Street Methodists.. (£11.21).

FROM THE BOXES.

The amount collected from Missionary Boxes came to £20.67. Many thanks to all who helped towards this sum.

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FAMILY READINGS.

Aug. 1st.	-	Mrs.P. Lightfoot - 1.Cor.12.4-12. Meeting Point - Christ.
" 8th.	-	Mrs.M.Hill - John 6.1-17. - Sharing.
" 15th.	-	Mrs.J.Law - Psalm 150 - Celebrating.
" 22nd.	-	Mr.R. Mullen - 1.Cor.16.1-14.-Giving
" 29th.	-	Mrs.H.Vincent -Luke 8.4-15 -Receiving
Sept. 5th.	-	Church closed.
" 12th.	-	Mrs.B. McCormick -Exodus 3.1-7. - Promising.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH.

DOOR STEWARDS

Aug.	1st.	Mr.H. Hill	Mr. J. Hill
"	8th.	am. Mr.J. Lord	Mrs.E. Crossley
		pm. Mr.J. Nairn	
	15th.	Mr.E. Holt	Mr.J. Holt
	22nd.	Mr.R. Mullen	Mrs. A.Stott
"	29th.	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. H. Hill
Sept.	5th.	Closed	
"	12th.	Mr.J. Lord	Mr.J. Hill

COMMUNION -- ELDERS.

Aug. 8th. pm. - Mr. J. Lord Mr.J. Nairn
" 22nd. a.m. - Mr.F. Simpson Mr.F. Beattie

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE.

Aug.	1st.	Mrs.D. Leach
"	8th.	Mrs. P. Lightfoot
"	15th.	Mrs. M.G. Hill
"	22nd.	Mrs. Holt Mrs. Cockcroft
"	29th.	Mrs.H.N. Hill
Sept.	5th.	Closed
"	12th.	Mrs. Shackleton

COFFEE ROTA.

Aug.	1st.	Mrs.L. Stanton	Mrs.J. Hey
"	8th.	Mrs.A. Merrick	Mrs.S. Moss
"	15th.	Mrs.L. Butterworth	Mrs.B. Holt
"	22nd.	Mrs.P. Mullen	Mrs.K. Hill
"	29th.	Mrs. W. Spinks	Mrs.J. Hobbs
Sept.	5th.	Closed	
"	12th.	Mrs. Allison	Beverley Allison

If unable to fulfil your duties would you please find a substitute.

NB. For Family Readings please see page 13.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW.

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Aug. 1st.	Mr.J. Collins	Stephen Collins
" 8th.	Mrs.J. Calow;	Ian; Alan; Graham
" 15th.	Mr.G. Buckley	Mr.A. Rae
" 22nd.	Mrs.F. Butterworth	Mr.H. Mellor
" 29th.	Mrs.J. Duffy	Mrs.A. Baines
Sept.5th.	Mrs.B. Clarence	Mrs.P. Royle

ELDERS ROTA.

	EVENING DOOR STEWARDS	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
Aug.1.	Mr.H.Whitehead	Mr.A.Busill	Mr.D. Logan
" 8.	Mr.J.Wild	Mr.D.Munday	Mrs.C. Hey
"15.	Mrs.M. Howarth	Mr.A.Sharples	Mrs.E.Starkie
" 22.	Mr.B.Clough	Mrs.M.Howarth	Mrs.Bradbury
" 29.	Mr.A.Sharples	Mr.B.Clough	Mrs.E.Starkie
Sept.5.	Mr.A.Busill	Mr.H.Whitehead	---

COMMUNION ROTA

Aug.1. P.M.	Mr.A.Sharples;	Mr.D. Munday
" 15. A.M.	Mrs.M.Howarth;	Mr.A. Busill
	Mr.H.Whitehead;	Mr.J.Wild

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FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA.

Aug. 1.	Mrs.E. Smith; Mrs.H. Buckley
" 8.	Mrs.E. Busill; Miss I. Tither
" 15.	Mrs.N.Whitehead; Mrs.P. Greenhalgh
" 22.	The Young People
" 29.	Mrs.J. Duffy; Mrs.F. Butterworth
Sept.12.	Mrs.J. Cudworth; Mrs.N. Settle

Should you be unable to fulfil your duty would you please find a substitute. Many thanks!

BIBLE READINGS for August.

Aug. 1st.	Matthew 7;	21-29
" 8th.	Romans 12;	9-12 & 16-21
" 15th.	John 15;	11-17
" 22nd.	Matthew 5;	1-10
" 29th.	Matthew 5;	17-20

MINISTER:

Rev A V J NASH BA
The Manse
196 Harbour Lane
Milnrow

Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

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